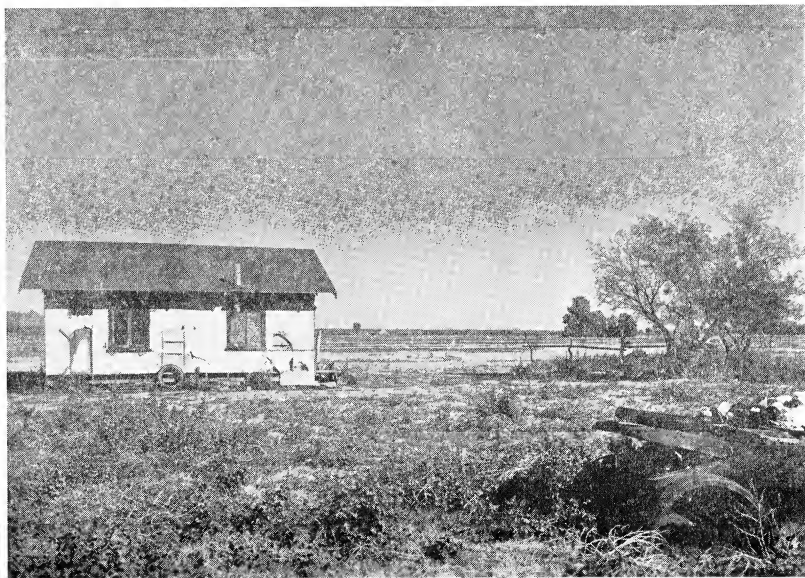


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## AN ABANDONED FARM IN THE MOHAWK VALLEY

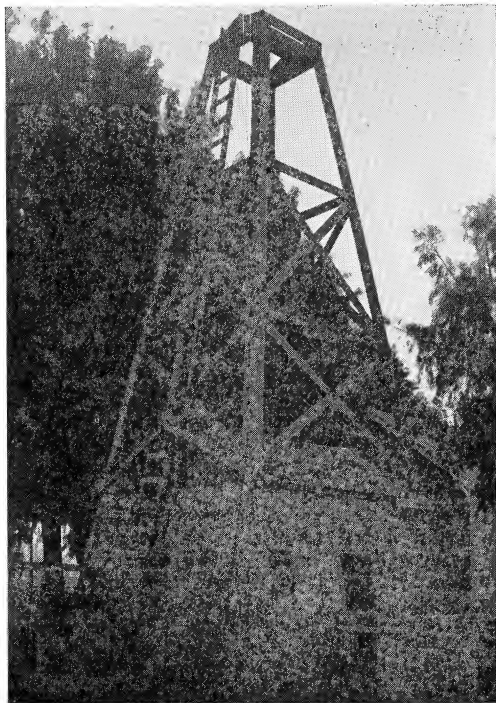


During the year 1931 . . .

six thousand two hundred acres of land, included in Eighty-One farms, were being irrigated and farmed in the Mohawk Valley. Dams which the Government has constructed upstream have since cut off the under-ground water supply from these lands, and more than half of the farmers have been forced to abandon their farms.

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ONE OF 30 IRRIGATION WELLS WHICH WAS OPERATED BY THE  
MOHAWK MUNICIPAL WATER COSERVATION DISTRICT DURING 1931



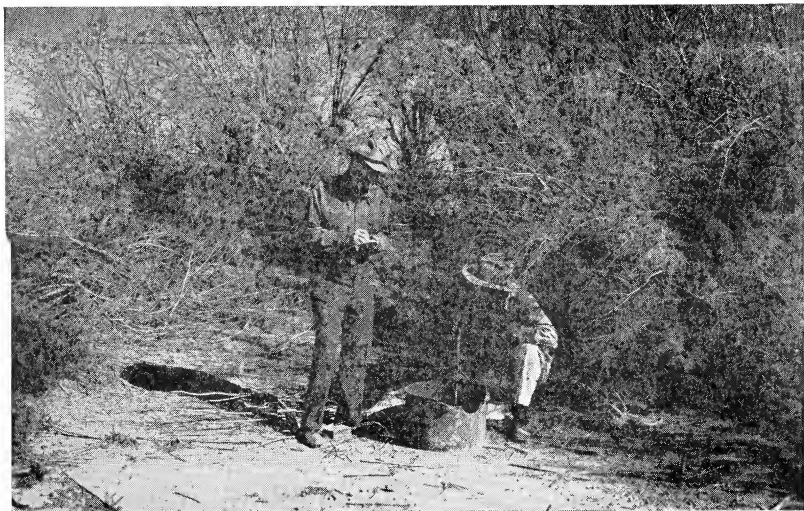
This well is still operating . . .

however the soluble salt content of the water has increased to such an extent that profitable crops cannot be produced by its use. Of the more than Three Hundred acres it formerly supplied with water only sixty are still being farmed, and it is expected that operation of this well will soon be discontinued.

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## ABANDONED WELL OF THE MOHAWK MUNICIPAL WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



The District, which includes 18,200 acres . . .

of the rich lower Gila Valley lands, was organized in 1923. Since that time the Coolidge Dam, on the Gila River about 250 miles above the District lands, and the Bartlett Dam, on the Verde River, about 170 miles above the District lands, have both been constructed. At the time of the organization of the District neither of those dams was even started and the settlers had no reason to fear that dams, constructed by the Government, would cut off their under-ground water supply.

Within three years after the Coolidge Dam was completed in 1930, the water table under the Mohawk Valley lands dropped approximately ten feet, the soluble salt content in ten of the District wells became too high for irrigation uses, and the wells had to be abandoned. There is every reason to believe that the Bartlett Dam, completed in May, 1939, will further deplete the underground water supply of the lower Gila Valley lands, and that the farmers of the Mohawk Valley will have to abandon more of their lands and wells.

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## MOHAWK VALLEY SCHOOL



### School attendance in the Lower Gila Valley . . .

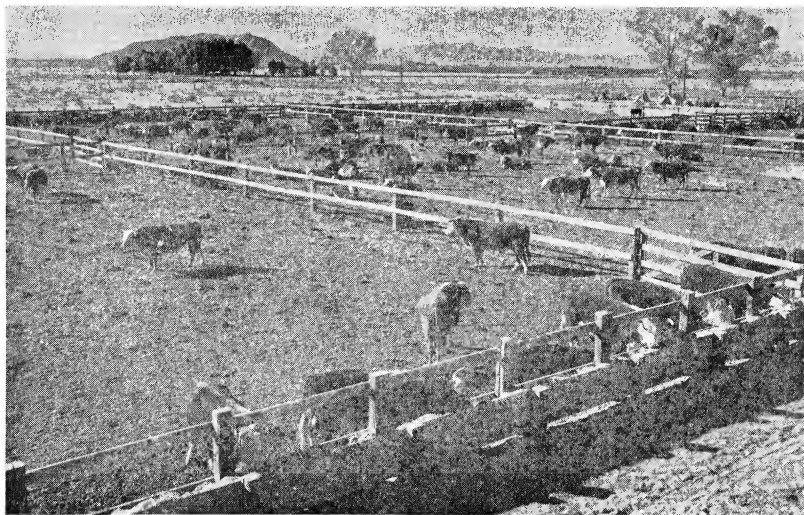
rapidly increased as a result of irrigation from the under-ground water supplied by the Gila River. In 1926 the Mohawk Valley School had an average daily attendance of 14 children. This increased to 101 children in 1930, and the school building pictured above was built at a cost of \$48,000.00.

Taxable wealth also increased; in 1931, the assessed value of taxable property in the Mohawk Valley was \$1,876,425.00, and in the Antelope Valley it was \$2,207,012.00. Failure of good irrigation water is now working havoc in that region. Taxable wealth in the Mohawk Valley in 1939, has dropped to \$1,228,291.00, and in the Antelope Valley, to \$1,476,295.00, or a total loss of values in the two valleys of \$1,378,012.00. School attendance also reflects the condition of the settlers. In the Mohawk Valley it has dropped from 101 in 1931, to 62 in 1939, and in the Antelope Valley from 77 in 1931, to 46 in 1939.

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## STOCK FEEDING IN THE MOHAWK VALLEY



One of the important farm uses . . .

of irrigable land is the feeding of live stock. This, as well as every other farm activity, has been curtailed in the lower Gila by the failure of a sufficient supply of good irrigation water.

Present plans of the Bureau of Reclamation include the bringing of Colorado River water to seventy thousand acres of the Gila bottom lands, including the Mohawk and Antelope Valleys.

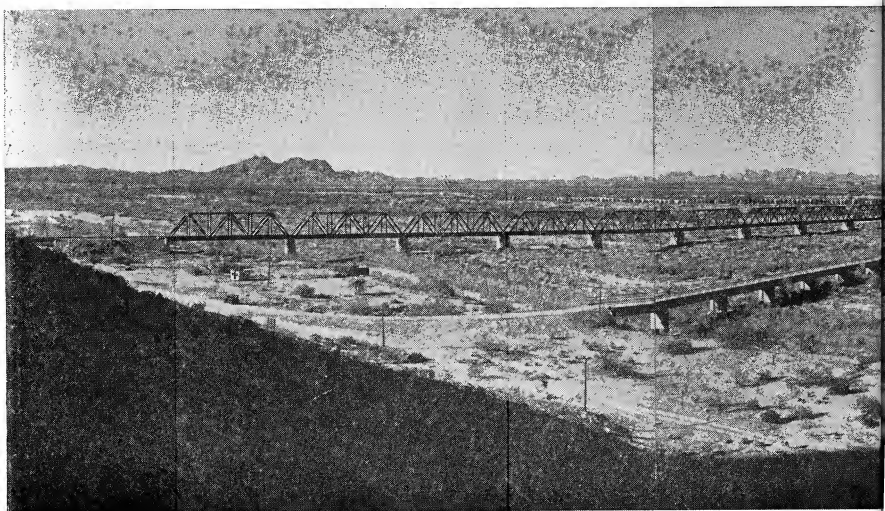
We have strong reason to believe that an appropriation of One Million Dollars to the Gila Project for the Fiscal year beginning July 1st, 1940, would make possible the execution of contracts for building approximately Fourteen miles of main canal, up the Gila Valley toward the Mohawk and Antelope Valleys.

There is every reason why the settlers of these valleys should have this assistance now. The project is economically sound, and if the Government intends to provide water for those lands it should be done now, while the people are still on the lands; it would give heart to a worthy people and be of inestimable value to the whole Gila Project.

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Looking Over the Moho

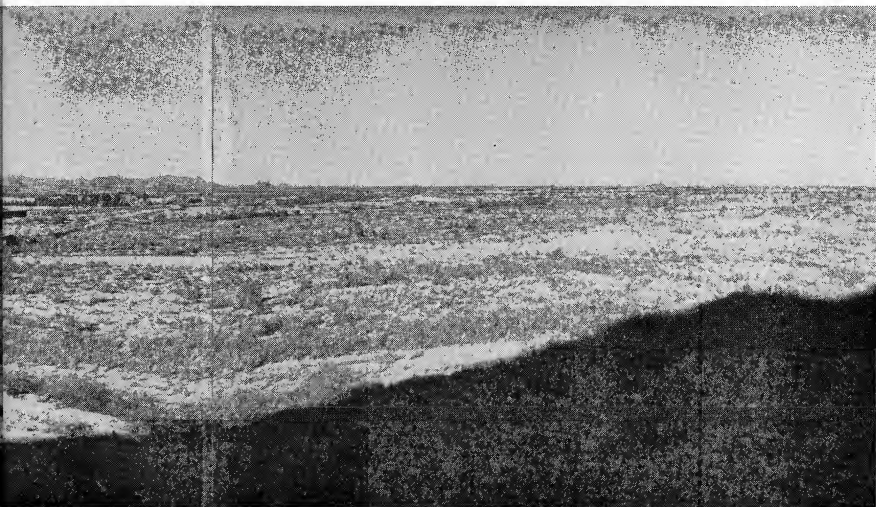


The Fertile Mohawk Valley...

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# Valley from Antelope Hill

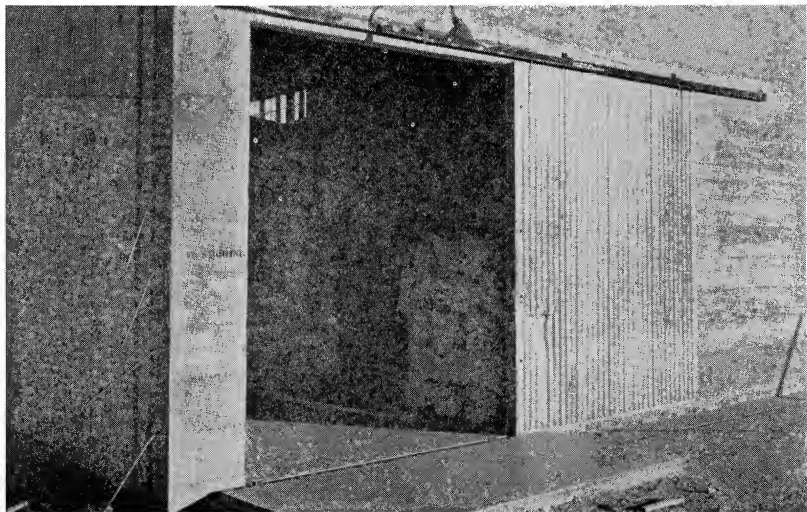


Stretches for miles in the distance.  
In the foreground appear the highway and railroad bridges, where  
they cross the Gila River just north of Antelope Hill, and also  
the Gila Valley Power Line.

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## ALFALFA SEED WAREHOUSE AND CLEANING PLANT WELLTON, ARIZONA



### The Lower Gila Valley lands . . .

rank first in the United States in the production of alfalfa seed. When sufficient good irrigation water was available the average yield of alfalfa seed in the valley per year has been as high as 600 pounds per acre, and the annual crop has brought returns as high at \$750,000.00.

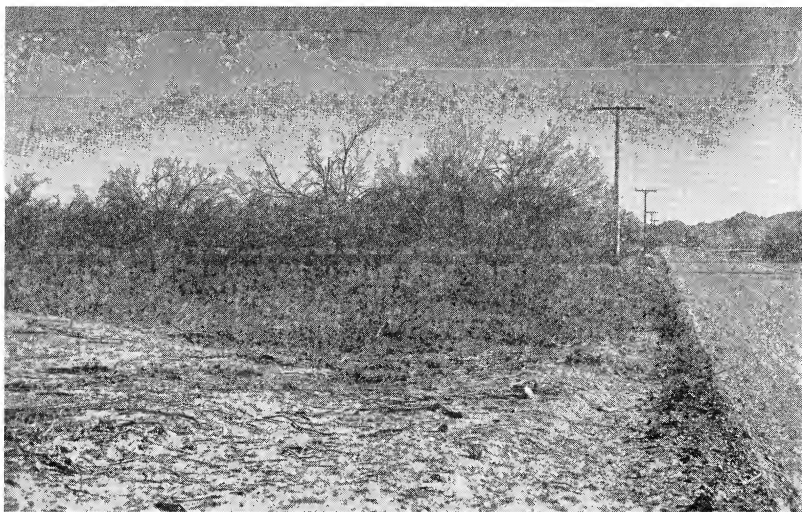
During the year 1939 the production of alfalfa seed in the area averaged only 146.53 pounds per acre, and the total value of the crop was less than \$200,000.00. The salty water has also made crop rotation in the valley impossible, as most other crops are more susceptible than alfalfa to injury from a high per cent of soluble salts in irrigation water.

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DEAD MESQUITE TREES, POWER LINE AND HIGHWAY  
IN MOHAWK VALLEY



Mesquite trees are native . . .

to the warm river bottom lands in the southwestern part of Arizona; they are generally hardy and, under natural conditions remain green throughout the year.

The above picture shows the present condition of mesquite trees in the Mohawk Valley. It is reasonable to believe that dropping of the water table, and the increased amount of soluble salts in the under-ground water, is not only killing these trees, but also destroying the present usefulness of these rich valley lands.

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# Additional Statement of Facts...




The lands of the lower Gila Valley are ideally situated for the development of one of the richest agricultural areas in the United States. The United States Department of Agriculture, in its Soil Survey, Series 1929, Number 20, makes the following statement:

"The Gila soils are by far the most important soils in the area, both by reason of their location in the bottom lands where water may be easily and cheaply applied and because of their good quality, owing to their generally fine texture, good water holding capacity, and comparative richness in available plant foods."

In addition to the fine quality of the soils the entire area is traversed by the main line of the Southern Pacific Railway, and no part of the area is located more than five miles from a loading point. The United States Highway No. 80 parallels the Gila Valley lands, and, with electric power lines already constructed, cheap electric energy from the Colorado River may be easily and cheaply distributed.

If no appropriation is obtained for the Gila Project this year, necessary relief to this distressed area will be delayed at least another year longer, and, viewing the International situa-



# ***The Gila Project***

## **"The Cradle of Sleeping Plenty"**

The following letter is of utmost importance as it involves a worthwhile community enterprise, benefiting the entire Southwest. Your careful consideration and earnest support is invited. Do not fail to read.

June 6, 1938.

The Hon. Board of Supervisors of Yuma County,  
Yuma, Arizona.

Gentlemen:

The Board of Directors of the Gila Project Association takes a great deal of pleasure in presenting to you, as the legislative and business head of the County of Yuma, a report of the activities of the association in promoting the development of the lands of the Gila Project.

Prior to the organization of the Gila Project Association, and in the spring of the year 1935, it became known in Yuma that if an irrigation district were organized so that the United States government would have a responsible agency representing the owners of lands within the area concerned, with which it might enter into a repayment contract, that the Bureau of Reclamation would commence the construction of irrigation works for the lands of the Gila Project. We therefore dissolved the old Araby-Yuma Mesa Irrigation District, and organized the Yuma-Gila Irrigation District for the purpose of entering into contractual relations with the Secretary of Interior of the United States for the repayment of the construction costs of reclaiming approximately 139,000 acres of land on the Yuma Mesa in Yuma, County, Arizona.

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tion regarding the Colorado River, it seems highly important that every possible effort be made to speed Gila Project development. The Special Ickes Committee reporting on the Gila Project on January 19th, 1936, among other things said:

"We urge it as imperative to initiate water rights in Colorado River for one and two class lands in all units of project and for Arizona to establish sound water rights to needed portion Colorado water."

A visit below the Mexican Boundary, on the east side of the Colorado River was made January 22nd, 1940. A large force of men and tractors were busily engaged in clearing, leveling and planting several thousand acres of new land to barley and wheat, and a large new irrigation canal was carrying water to the land.

Close to the town of San Luis the principal occupation seemed to be making adobe bricks and building new houses in a rapidly growing community.

The contrast between conditions existing in the Mexican Delta of the Colorado River, and those in the American communities of the lower Gila Valley was striking.

The American lands, beyond question susceptible of economical irrigation with the water of the Colorado River, are nearly all dry and barren looking. The people living there are faced with financial ruin because Government constructed dams have deprived them of their under-ground water supply. No effort should now be spared by their Government to provide the excellent lands of the lower Gila Valley with the life giving water of the Colorado River.

Respectfully submitted,

GILA PROJECT ASSOCIATION,

By Hugo B. Farmer, Secretary.

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The work of organizing the Yuma-Gila Irrigation District was completed, and the first meeting of its Board of Directors was held on or about the 9th day of August, 1935.

We prepared a certified copy of the district organization and sent it to Hon. R. J. Coffey, District Counsel of the United States Reclamation Service, at Los Angeles, California, and the organization proceedings of the district were approved by him. Dr. Elwood Mead, then the United States Commissioner of Reclamation, thereupon made a visit to Yuma, Arizona, and called in the Board of Directors of the Yuma-Gila Irrigation District, and its Secretary, for consultation, and after he became satisfied that we intended to co-operate with him in trying to develop the project, he advised us that he would advertise for bids on construction works of a portion of the main canal for irrigating the lands of the first unit of the Gila Project.

Bids for construction of a part of the main canal were thereafter advertised for, and were to have been opened on the 4th day of December, 1935; however, objections to the construction of the project were made by the United States Secretary of Agriculture on representations made to him, and because of such objections, said bids were returned unopened.

Thereafter, with the active assistance of Hon. Carl Hayden, United States Senator from Arizona, and Hon. Elizabeth C. Greenway, Arizona Congresswoman, we obtained the assistance of Dr. Homer L. Shantz, president of the University of Arizona, and its College of Agriculture in making a special investigation of the Gila Project lands, and Dr. Shantz was, at our request, sent to Washington, D. C., to consult with the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior, concerning the lands of the Gila Project.

A special investigating commission was appointed by the Secretary of the Interior to make an investigation and report on the value of the soils of the Gila Project and the economic feasibility of its development, such commission consisting of Hon. Wm. H. Code, Civil Engineer of Los Angeles, California; Hon. Wm. Peterson, Geologist, of Logan, Utah; and Hon. W. L. Powers, Soil Scientist, of Corvallis, Oregon.

The commission made a very careful investigation of the Gila Project lands, and the practicability of their development by irrigation from the waters of the Colorado River, and on February 15, 1936, made their report to the Secretary of the Interior, in which they recommended the development of the project, and said among other things: "It is believed that a permanently profitable agriculture can be developed on the land. The exceptional climate will permit production of some semi-tropical deficiency crops. Initiation of the project will preserve a water resource for eventual development of an empire of national importance."

The report of the special commission resulted in the Secretary of Agriculture withdrawing his objections to the Gila Project, and construction work on the project was commenced during the month of May, 1936.

In the summer of 1936, it became evident that appropriations for the Gila Project would be extremely difficult to obtain because of prejudice existing in the Colorado River basin. This prejudice was largely because Arizona and the other Colorado River basin states had never reached agreement over the waters of the Colorado River. In addition, a large number of the people of Arizona seemed opposed to the project development, and there was a general prejudice throughout the East against the reclamation of any new lands.

These facts made it necessary to have a strong organization to support Gila Project development, and the Gila Project Association was organized solely for the purpose of doing such work as might be necessary in support of the early development of the project. The Association affiliated itself with the National Reclamation Association, an organization devoted to the cause of reclamation by irrigation and to disseminating among eastern people factual data showing the economic value to the nation of western irrigation, by which it is hoped to overcome eastern opposition to the reclamation of western lands. The National Reclamation Association is an organization consisting of representatives from fifteen western states, and during the past two sessions of Congress has maintained an office in Washington, D. C. It has been of tremendous value to the cause of reclamation generally, and without its active support the Gila Project would have received no appropriation from Congress during the year 1937.

The Gila Project Association has sent a delegate to meetings of the National Reclamation Association at Salt Lake City, Utah; Spokane, Washington; Casper, Wyoming; and has had a representative in Washington, D. C. five different times during the past two years, and it has had to assume the burden of providing the money to pay Arizona's assessments to the National Reclamation Association, which, during the year 1937, amounted to \$1,000 and during the year 1938 is the sum of \$1,200.

The Gila Project Association has, ever since its organization, worked to obtain friends for the Gila Project in Arizona, and during the summer of 1937, it established friendly relations with the Arizona Colorado River Commission, and ever since has been working with that Commission to develop facts of value to the state and to the Gila Project. We prevailed upon two members of the Arizona Colorado River Commission to attend a meeting of the National Reclamation Association at Casper, Wyoming in October, 1937, and arranged a conference at such meeting between the members of the Commission and Hon. John C. Page, Commissioner of Reclamation, and, with the help of the River Commission, we caused a careful

investigation and report to be made concerning development work going on in the Mexican delta of the Colorado River. That report created a great deal of interest in the upper Colorado River basin states and caused them to request the Secretary of the Gila Project Association to attend a meeting of the Governors of the four upper basin states at Santa Fe, New Mexico, in March, 1938. We have also secured and have furnished the Arizona Colorado River Commission much valuable information concerning a recent survey and report on the surplus waters of the Colorado River. This report was prepared for the information of the Secretary of State in considering treaty negotiations with Mexico over the waters of that stream.

When the Interior Appropriation Bill was enacted by Congress this year, it had attached to it two items of special importance to the Gila Project. One item gave the Secretary of the Interior authority to provide water for the irrigation of the Experimental Farm on the Yuma Mesa, and appropriated \$750 annually for that purpose. The other item increased the United States Reclamation Fund by \$14,000,000, heretofore paid into the United States Treasury as royalties on oil from naval oil reserves, and it also provided for repayment into the Reclamation Fund upwards of \$200,000,000 appropriated direct from the United States Treasury for the construction of reclamation works in the United States. These amendments to the Interior Appropriation Bill were inserted therein through the efforts of Hon. Carl Hayden, United States Senator, and they were supported by Arizona Congressman John R. Murdock, and other western Congressmen who put up a gallant fight for their passage, but their acceptance by the House is largely due to the splendid work of the National Reclamation Association, by and through its affiliation with the National Rivers and Harbors Congress and the Mississippi Valley Flood Control Association. This enabled us, for the first time in a Congressional fight involving western reclamation, to secure the support of the Mississippi Valley states, and was the salvation of the measure. As the amendments were passed by the small margin of fourteen votes, it is apparent that without this support they would have been defeated. At the time of the consideration of these matters by Congress, a representative of the Gila Project Association was in Washington working for their passage.

During the months of April and May, this year, our Association, through its representative in Washington, D. C. sought and secured the assistance of Senator Carl Hayden and officers of the United States Bureau of Reclamation in laying the foundation for securing additional funds from the President's emergency relief bill now pending in Congress. Subsequently, Hon. Harold L. Ickes, Secretary of the Interior, in testifying before the Committee on Appropriations of the United States Senate, and in answer to questions by Senator Carl Hayden, stated that he could furnish emergency relief employment within the terms of the President's relief bill, in the construction of power lines and pumping plants on the

Gila Project, to the extent of \$2,000,000; that such expenditures would supply emergency relief employment on the Gila Project equal to 1,000 men for the period of one year. If this money is forthcoming, and we believe it will be, it will materially improve conditions in Yuma County during the coming year.

While we believe that the moneys for the power line and pumping plant on the Gila Project will be made available this year, and we are very much gratified over the fact that the amendments to the Reclamation Law will, in the future, return large sums of money to the Reclamation Fund and materially assist in securing funds for future development of the Gila Project, we also realize that very little of such money will be available to the Reclamation Fund for several years, and that in the meantime we are going to have to exert every possible effort if we are to be successful in securing sufficient money for the speedy completion of the work now under way.

Opponents to western reclamation are still active in the presentation of arguments against appropriations for reclaiming new lands, and the very fact that appropriations direct from the Federal Treasury to reclamation projects will eventually be repaid into the Reclamation Fund will be used to oppose any further direct appropriations for such projects as the Grand Coulee and Central Valley which received \$21,000,000 direct from the Treasury this year. If this opposition is successful and such projects are required to depend upon the reclamation fund for further appropriations, it will, for the next few years, make it extremely difficult to secure money for the Gila Project.

We are pleased to report that construction of irrigation works for the reclamation of the first 150,000 acres of Gila Project lands, including percentage of the construction costs on Imperial Dam, is now 35% complete. We believe that diligent efforts on our part can bring about completion of the reclamation of this area within the next few years. It is needless to say that this development alone is a matter of first importance to Yuma County, and the ultimate development of the whole project will add another 450,000 acres to the cultivated area of Yuma County; so we feel that in asking you, as the Board of Supervisors of Yuma County, to give this whole matter your careful and thoughtful consideration, and that you include in your budget to the Immigration Commissioner Expense Fund, for use of the Gila Project Association in support of the Gila Project, the amount we are asking for in this report, is a very reasonable request.

We, as the Board of Directors of the Gila Project Association, have given our time and effort to this matter without any compensation whatsoever, and we have applied business methods in carrying out the object of the Association, which is only to secure the early development of these valuable lands. We do not think that we are making any over statement



when we say that without the activities enumerated in this report the Gila Project would not now be under construction. The meetings of the Gila Project Association are always open to the public and visitors are always welcome. No moneys are expended except by order of the Board of Directors, and all checks are signed by the President and Treasurer of the Association. We invite examination of all expenditures.

From the standpoint of the tax revenues alone, and without giving any consideration to the tremendous benefit which will come to Yuma County from this development, what we ask is entirely justified by the following facts:

Contractors working on reclamation development in Yuma County, nearly all of which is directly in construction work on the Gila Project, paid to Yuma County in taxes during the year 1937, the sum of \$5,058.20, and this year the following contractors engaged in such work are paying taxes to Yuma County as follows: Shea Company, \$1,734.11; Morrison-Utah-Winston, \$381.31; Boyce & Igo, \$1,087.34; Mittry Bros., \$595.57; Metropolitan Construction Co., \$546.98, and Pollock Construction Company, \$942.10, or a total of \$5,287.41. This does not consider payment of taxes on automobiles and other personal property taxes amounting to thousands of dollars which have been, and are being paid to Yuma County as a direct result of the Gila Project work.

For your full information, we take pleasure in submitting to you the amount of money received and expended by the Gila Project Association since we started this work, which is as follows:

Total amount of moneys which have come into the hands of the Association since its organization.....	\$ 9,634.54
Moneys now remaining in the hands of the Board of Supervisors of Yuma County for Gila Project.....	526.50
Grand Total .....	\$10,161.04
Moneys expended by Association since its organization as follows:	
Expense of sending a representative of the Gila Project Association on three separate trips to Washington, D. C. to appear before Congressional committees in behalf of the Gila Project; two trips to Salt Lake City, Utah, one trip to Spokane, Washington, and one trip to Casper, Wyoming to attend meetings of the National Reclamation Association; one trip to Santa Fe, New Mexico, to appear before the Governors of the upper Colorado River basin states; and numerous trips to Phoenix, Arizona to consult with the Arizona Colorado River Commission and other persons on matters affecting the Gila Project, in the amount of.....	\$ 2,079.08

Salaries paid by the Association since its organization, including fees for organizing same.....	\$ 4,032.00
Dues paid to National Reclamation Association during years 1937 and 1938.....	1,700.00
Printing booklet entitled: "Shall a National Resource Be Wasted" in support of Gila Project, and circulated in Washington, D. C. and other places.....	416.91
Stationery, printing and office supplies.....	201.15
Paid to Arizona Corporation Commission and other ex- penses incurred in organization of Gila Project Association .....	44.77
Yuma County products including grapefruit, dates and pecans sent as Gila Project Association Christmas remembrances to friends of the Gila Project in Wash- ington, D. C. and used for distribution during meet- ings of National Reclamation Association at various places .....	328.96
Costs of telegrams, postage and telephone calls.....	102.02
Attorney fees paid for representing people of Gila Valley before Board of Army Engineers at hearing on pro- posed flood control dam near Sentinel, Arizona and for the preparation of and submitting to such Board briefs in support thereof.....	50.00
Paid to Arizona Producer, Phoenix, Arizona.....	50.00
Membership dues in National Reclamation Association for Arizona Senators and Representative in Congress paid by Gila Project Association.....	3.00
Money expended to develop and enlarge pictures of de- velopments in Mexican delta of Colorado River.....	79.75
Cost of dinner to Secretary of National Reclamation As- sociation and party on his visit to Yuma, Arizona.....	18.00
Paid for gasoline and miscellaneous expenses incurred in Mexican delta of Colorado River.....	3.86
Paid reward for slogan for Gila Project.....	5.00
<b>TOTAL</b> moneys expended.....	<b>\$ 9,114.50</b>
Recap: Total moneys expended.....	\$ 9,114.50
Balance remaining in bank.....	520.04
Credit remaining Board of Supervisors.....	526.50
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	<b>\$10,161.04</b>

As business men and tax payers of the community, we feel that this record, not considering any other work we have done in connection with the Gila Project, such as promoting the development of the Headgate Rock Dam near Parker, Arizona and working to protect Yuma County against the setting aside of more than 3,000,000 acres of its lands as a wild game refuge, we believe these facts justify our request that you set aside for the use of our Association for the Gila Project during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1938, the sum of \$6,000.00.

**A. J. Griffin**

**Bert Caudry**

**John L. Morrish**

**O. T. McCoon**

**Wayne T. Wright**

**Howard H. Cudworth**

**Geo. M. Hill**

**Directors of Gila Project Association**

(Signed)

(SEAL)

**ATTEST:**

**Hugo B. Farmer**  
Secretary.

***A Small Appropriation***

*...for the...*

***Gila Project  
THIS YEAR***

**WILL START CANAL WORK TO TAKE COLORADO  
RIVER WATER TO THE THIRSTY LANDS  
OF THE MOHAWK VALLEY**



**A Short Story of Serious Conditions in the Lower  
Gila Valley Caused by Depletion of  
the Underground Water Supply**



*Compiled by...*

***The Gila Project Association***

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